

**GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN'S JUSTICE
CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL
MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2006, 9 am – 11am
TOWER BALLROOM, GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT**

Members Present: Gloria Gillespie, Judy Labovitz, Christine McPherson, Pat Wagner, Ted Melinat, JoAnn Monaghan, Tracy Yokich, DHS: Mary Mehren.

Members Absent: Colleen Duhm, Pat Sorenson, Jean Carl, Amy Hathaway, Alice Thompson.

1. Permanency for Foster Children

Review of Article by Judge Tacoma

- Committee suggested that we develop a Request for proposal on holding focus groups about this article.
- Focus groups with judges to get them on board.
- Have them identify what the issues are.
- Regional meetings for Southwest, Southeast and Tribal
- Small groups – 20 or less
- Are children in care longer than 24months
- Tracy Yokich volunteered to Chair and organize these focus groups.
- Tracy suggested that a judge bring one of their staff – referee – or senior DHS staff to add to the discussion about permanency.
- ASFA, outcomes.
- Timeframes.
- Fund it by the Taskforce.
- Tracy will put a proposal on this and email it to the committee.

AWOLP Conference by SCAO

- Gloria attended this conference and felt it was a worth while meeting.

Review of article on consent decrees

- Discussed and mentioned that everyone should print and read.
- Ted had the article.
- There were previous lawsuits filed in September 1985.
- MIPA, IPEA.
- Mary brought up task force in over representation of children of color.

2. Discussion of Allowance for Foster Children-Update from Mary Mehren

Allowance for a foster child is discussed in foster care training in CWI, but not a focus of the training. They will try to stress this more.

Connie Norman at DHS will make this a stronger focus in the foster parent handbook. She has already started working on this.

The Foster Parent Association and the PRIDE trainings will give this more of a focus.

3. **Update on Joint Meeting of CRPs**

A joint meeting of the three CRPs will be held **Wednesday, February 7, 2007 from 10 to 3** at MPHI in Okemos. We will follow a similar agenda as from the last joint meeting in 2005. A joint meeting will be held every February.

4. **Old Business**-None

5. **New Business**

Focus Groups-See above.

6. **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be **Thursday, January 11, 2007** at the Kellogg Center.

Minutes Prepared by Christine McPherson
11/28/06